Safety measures in Southern Railway

419. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Southern Railway is taking measures to strengthen the safety measures in the Southern Railway Region;

(b) if so, the measures that the Southern Railway is thinking of introducing in its trains, etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Southern Railway is thinking of spending Rs. 19 crores in this financial years for security works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELLU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The measures being taken by Southern Railway for improving safety in train operations include replacement of overaged assets, adoption of suitable and modern technologies for enhancing safety and upgradation of skill and competence of safety category staff by improving training facilities, etc.

(c) and (d) The works pertaining to safety are mainly undertaken through the planheads—Road Safety works—Level Crossing, Road Safety works—Road Over/Under Bridges, Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signalling and Telecommunication Works, parts of Machinery and Plants and Other Specified Works under Demand No. 16—Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement. For 2005-06 of the following allotments have been made to Southern Railway for these planheads under Demand No.16—

(Figures in crores of rupees)

Planhead	Allotment (Gross)
Road Safety works-Level Crossings	28.57
Road Safety Works-Road Over/Under Bridges	37.75
Track Renewals	177.00
Bridge Works	31.92
Signalling and Telecommunication Works	70.44
Machinery and Plants—'Special Railway Safety Fund' works	
Other Specified Works	7.63
(i) 'Special Railway Safety Fund' works	1.95
(ii) RPF barracks	0.01

Besides above, Southern Railway has also been allotted an amount of Rs. 73.63 crores to meet its security requirements during 2005-06 under Demand No. 12.

Rail accident near Nalgonda

420. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers killed and seriously injured, separately, in the rail accident that occurred in the early hours of 29th October, 2005 near Nalgonda in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount of *ex-gratia* paid by Government in respect of those killed and injured;

(c) the cause of accident as established in the inquiry and the action taken in regard thereto; and

(d) what precautionary steps are proposed to be taken to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELLU): (a) The rail accident of the 415 Repalle Secunderabad Passenger on 29.10.05 in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh, resulted in 116 deaths and grievous injuries to 26 persons and simple injuries to 78 persons.

(b) An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 115.7 lacs has been made in respect of those killed and injured in this accident.

(c) As per the provisional findings contained in the preliminary Report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, the accident has occurred due to the train running on a portion of track, in hanging condition, flooded and damaged by breach of bund of Rama Samudram Tank of Golnepalli Village, leading to sudden heading up of water, flowing over the railway formation with intense velocity, scouring the river bed under the bridge and causing its settlement, and breach of adjoining formation due to abnormal heavy rainfall in the area.